

Message Text

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UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 3 USBERLIN 1682

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTIONS REPORTING ON PRESIDENT'S BERLIN TRIP

1. WEST BERLIN PRESS COVERAGE: ALL THREE SUNDAY MORNING DAILIES
GAVE TOP COVERAGE TO PRESIDENT'S BERLIN VISIT UNDER HEADLINES
QUOTING PRESIDENT'S ASSURANCE THAT BERLIN STAYS FREE (WAS IMMER
SEI - BERLIN BLEIBT FREI"). ALL PAPERS REPORTED ON PRESIDENT'S
VISIT IN GREAT DETAIL AND CARRIED FULL TEXT OF HIS AIRLIFT
MEMORIAL REMARKS, WHILE REPORTS ON TOWN MEETING VARIED IN LENGTH.
INDEP BERLINER MORGENPOST DEVOTED ENTIRE PAGE TO TOWN MEETING
WITH VERBATIM TRANSLATION OF MANY QUESTIONS AND PRESIDENT'S
ANSWERS. ALL PAPERS CARRIED GREAT NUMBER OF PICTURES AND
DESCRIPTIVE REPORTS COVERING PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO WALL AND RIDE
ON KURFUERSTENDAMM. SPECIAL REPORTS WERE DEDICATED TO AMR.
PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO FRANKFURT AND U.S. TROOPS IN FRG WAS
COVERED ON INSIDE PAGES. GDR HARASSMENT AT TRANSIT CROSSING
POINTS IN RESPONSE TO CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT'S ESCORTING PRESIDENT
TO BERLIN AND SOVIET PROTEST MENTIONED BY ALL PAPERS.

2. WEST BERLIN COMMENT: INDEP BERLINER MORGENPOST THANKED
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PRESIDENT FOR COMING AND "PRESENTING CITY WITH HIS POLITICAL GEN-
EROSITY. HE SOLEMNLY DECLARED THAT WHATEVER MAY BE BERLIN STAYS
FREE, THAT THE U.S. WOULD CONSIDER ANY ATTACK ON BERLIN AS AN
ATTACK ON ITSELF, THAT THE WALL'S APPEARANCE REFLECTS THE
DESOLATION OF HUMAN SPIRIT, AND THAT HOPE FOR GERMAN REUNIFIC-
ATION IS NOT ABANDONED... "JIMMY CARTER'S DAY IN FREE PART OF
BERLIN SEEMS TO INDICATE HE HAS AGGRESSIVELY CHALLENGED

KREMLIN. HE IS OBVIOUSLY RESOLVED TO DEFEND U.S. RIGHTS ON SPREE RIVER BY ALL MEANS HE HAS AND INDICATED HE WOULD NOT THINK OF LETTING HIS PASSIONATE PLEA FOR HUMAN RIGHTS END AT WALL AND IRON CURTAIN.

"THERE HAVE BEEN STRONG AND WEAKER AMERICAN PRESIDENTS, PRESIDENTS WHO REPRESENTED A WORLD POWER AND REPSIDENTS WHO SOUGHT SLAVATION IN A MERE GLOBAL BALANCE. FREE BERLIN MAY NOTE WITH RELIEF AND GRATITUDE AFTER CARTER'S VISIT: NONE OF THESE PRESIDENTS HAS EVER ALLOWED LIGHTS TO GO OUT ON THE SPREE."

3. PRO/SPD SPANDAUEER VOLKSBLATT WROTE "ONLY WEATHERH COULD HAVE BEEN FRIENDLIER. POLITICAL CONTENTS AND ATMOSPHERIC DENSITY OF JIMMY CARTER'S VISIT LEFT NOTHING TO BE DESIRED... LIKE NO OTHER CITY, BERLIN REMAINS TOUCHSTONE OF ALL PLEDGES TO PEASCEFUL LIFE SIDE BY SIDE IN EUROPE... THIRTY YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE SOVIET CLAIM ON WHOLE CITY WAS REJECTED BY AMERICAN INITIATIVE WITH HELP OF BRITISH AND FRENCH UNDER PERSONAL SACRIFICES OF PEOPLE OF BERLIN...IT WAS OF GREAT SYMBOLIC IMPORTANCE TO WELCOME JIMMY CARTER ON AIRLIFT SQUARE WHERE CLOSE GERMAN-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP BEGAN AND BERLINERS' TRUST IN PROTECTING POWERS CAN BE UNDERSTOOD BY EVERYBODY WITH A SENSE OF HISOTRICAL CONTINUITY.

"AS EXPECTED JIMMY CARTER HAS REAFFIRMED U.S. COMMITMENT WHICH HAS BEEN EXISTING SINCE DAYS OF HARRY S. TRUMAN AND JOHN F. KENNEDY. THIS REASSURANCE WAS HARDLY NEEDED, BUT IT HAD AN ADDITIONAL IMPACT ON A DAY WHEN A STILL PROFOUNDLY INSECURE GDR LEADERSHIP DELAYED UNCLASSIFIED

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BERLIN TRANSIT TRAFFIC BY HOURS UNDER VIOLATION OF AGREE RULES... "PRESIDENT CARTER HAS NOT FAILED TO MENTION REFERENCE TO HUMAN RIGHTS AS PREQUISITE TO MORE PEACE AND COOPERATION IN THE WORLD. RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION ALSO INCLUDES BERLINERS' CLAIM OF CHOSING THEIR OWN POLITICAL WAY, AND THIS IS LIKEWISE CLAIM OF ALL GERMANS."

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4. INDEP DER TAGESSPIEGEL NOTED POST-WATERGATE ENDEAVORS TO LIMIT PRESIDENTIAL POWER, A PROCESS WHICH IS CONTINUING AND IS FELT DAILY BY PRESIDENT CARTER IN EFFORT TO REGAIN LEADERSHIP FOR PRESIDENT OF UNITED STATE, AS WELL AS MOSCOW'S NEGATIVE RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT'S HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY WHICH IT CONSIDERS DANGEROUS TO POLITICAL STABILITY IN THE WORLD. HOWEVER, PAPER ASSUMED MOSCOW HAS "UNDERSTOOD MEANING AND INTENTION OF CARTER'S VISIT TO FRG AND BERLIN AT THIS TIME. AFTER CONSIDERABLE DIFFERENCES OF OPINION BETWEEN FRG GOVERNMENT AND CARTER ADMINISTRATION -- NOT SO MUCH ABOUT GOALS OF THEIR POLICIES BUT ABOUT METHODS OF APPROACH WHICH AT TIMES MAY BE EVEN MORE IMPORTANT - PRESIDENT CARTER WISHED TO EXPRESSLY DEMONSTRATE THAT BASIC RELATIONS BETWEEN FRG AND U.S. WILL NOT BE AFFECTED BY IT.

" IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT IN PRESENT WORLD SITUATION SECURITY ALLIANCE OF BONN AND WASHINGTON CONTINUES TO STAND IN FOREGROUND...BUT CARTER VISIBLY SOUGHT TO OVERCOME RESTRICTIONS INHERENT IN SUCH A RELATIONSHIP AND POINT TO COMMON IDEALS AND VALUES. AS IN FRG IT COULD BE NOTED CARTER WAS SEEKING UNDERSTANDING FOR A U.S. POLICY THAT CANNOT ONLY BE A BALANCING OF UNCLASSIFIED

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INTERESTS WITH FIENDS AND ADVERSARIES, BUT NEEDS BROADER MORAL FUNDAMENT IF IT SHALL BE SUPPORTED CONSISTENTLY BY AMERICAN PEOPLE. PREVIOUS EXPERIENCES INDICATED NO BETTER PLACE THAN BERLIN TO PROVE THAT.

"AS FOR REST, CARTER'S PUBLIC APPEARANCES AND REMARKS SHOW HIM TO BE A MAN WHO IS AWARE OF COMPLEXITY OF INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS. HE WAS CANDID IN ALL CASES IN WHICH HE HAD TO CONCEDE THAT THERE ARE NOT YET SOLUTIONS TO URGENT PROBLEMS. HE WAS NEVER PROVOCATIVE AND NEVER USED STRONGER WORDS THAN NEEDED TO EMPHASIZE U.S. POSITION WHICH HE MADE CLEAR.

"IN HIS ADDRESS AT AIRLIFT MEMORIAL, PRESIDENT NAMED THREE PRINCIPLES BY WHICH U.S. IS GUIDED IN HIS ACTIONS AND NEGOTIATIONS. FIRST, HE SAID, WE MUST BE DETERMINED TO MAINTAIN OUR ESSENTIAL INTERESTS AND OBJECTIVES WHICH ARE SO FUNDAMENTAL THAT THEY ARE NOT NEGOTIABLE. THE SECOND PREREQUISITE, HE

SAID, IS THAT THE HUMAN BEINGS FOR WHOM THESE NEGOTIATIONS ARE CONDUCTED MUST THEMSELVES BE CONVINCED OF THE INDISPENSABILITY OF COMMITMENTS. THIRD, WE MUST BE WILLING TO UNDERSTAND THE PERSPECTIVES OF OTHERS IN THE COURSE OF NEGOTIATING AGREEMENTS WHICH MAINTAIN OUR INTERESTS. THE QUESTION IS WHETHER SOVIETS, WHO STILL DO NOT SEEM TO UNDERSTAND PERSONAL SHAPING OF U.S. POLICIES BY CARTER, ARE PREPARED TO HONOR THIS."

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5. WEST GERMAN TV: BOTH CHANNELS AND WEST BERLIN'S REGIONAL PROGRAM AIRED EXTENSIVE FILM CLIPS REVIEWING THE SECOND DAY OF THE PRESIDENTIAL VISIT. HANS WERNER SCHWARZE COMMENTED ON CHANNEL TWO'S MAIN NEWS ON THE BERLIN VISIT: "JIMMY CARTER, A FEW HOURS IN BERLIN; WE WHO ONCE SAW KENNEDY, THEN NIXON, AND NOW THE MAN FROM GEORGIA CAN HARDLY IMAGINE COMMENTING WITH SOBER ANALYSIS. IT SEEMS RATHER THAT NOTWITHSTANDING ALL THE NEGATIVE EXPERIENCES WHICH GERMANS HAVE HAD WITH EMOTIONAL POLITICS, SOMETIMES POLITICS CANNOT BE WITHOUT EMOTIONS. THIS BECAME VERY CLEAR DURING THE MINUTES CARTER SPENT LOOKING OVER THE WALL. THERE IS AFTER ALL A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A KNOWLEDGE OF THE FAMILIAR AND AN ENCOUNTER WITH AN INHUMAN REALITY. "IF ANOTHER PROOF OF THE SEISMOGRAPHICAL FUNCTION OF THIS CITY WITHIN THE EAST-WEST SETTING WAS NEEDED, THEY GAVE IT THIS MORNING WITH THE OBSTRUCTION OF THE BERLIN TRANSIT TRAFFIC. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THIS HAPPENED ON ORDERS FROM THE SOVIETS. IN PARTICULAR, THE TIMING SUGGESTS MANY NEW DOUBTS ABOUT THE SOVIET UNION'S INTEREST IN A LONG-TERM STABILIZATION OF THE SITUATION IN BERLIN.

"A SIDE TRIP TO BERLIN - THE ATMOSPHERE STILL DEMONSTRATES
THE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BERLIN AND THE U.S....
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CARTER LEARNED IN THIS ISLAND CITY THAT THE RESPONSIBILITY OF A
WORLD LEADER CAN BE FELT ALMOST PHYSICALLY WHEN IN CONTACT WITH
SOME 100,000 PEOPLE AT A PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT LOCATION.
THOSE WHO OBSERVED CARTER DURING HIS FOUR HOR STAY IN BERLIN
WENT AWAY WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT PRESIDENT CARTER DID GET THIS
FEELING."

6. PETER MERSEBURGER SAID ON CHANNEL ONE'S MAIN NEWS: "AT THE
END OF THE TWO-DAY STATE VISIT, THE PRESIDENTIAL ADVISORS SEE
JIMMY CARTER'S VISIT AS A SUCCESS. THEY THINK THE RECEPTION
IN GERMANY WAS CORDIAL, AND THE LACK OF SUCH ENTHUSIASM AS
KENNEDY ONCE RECEIVED IS VIEWED AS A SIGN OF NORMALIZATION....
THEREFORE, CARTER INTENTINALLY DISPENSED WITH SETTING
DRAMATIC POLITICAL ACCENTS AND SOUGHT DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE
CITIZENS WHENEVER POSSIBLE THUS UNDERLINING THE SOLIDITY AND THE
FRIENDLY CHARACTER OF U.S.-GERMAN RELATIONS. IN U.S. OPION,
CARTER ALSO SUCCEEDED IN HIS DEMONSTRATIVE EFFORTS TO
ESTABLISH A CORDIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT
THAT WOULD TRANSCEND THE NECESSARY MATTER-OF-FACTNESS. SCHMIDT
ENCOUNTERED CARTER ALSO IN A VERY CORDIAL MANNER, AND SO BOTH
POLITICIANS CONTRIBUTED TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE POLITICAL
CLIMATE WHICH IS CHARACTERIZED BY A CO-OPEATION THAT KNOWS FEW
PROBLEMS. THE FACT THAT THE POLITICAL TALKS BETWEEN SCHMIDT
AND CARTER TOOK ONLY A FEW HOURS IS INTERPRETED BY THE PRES-
IDENTIAL ADVISORS AS A PROOF OF FAR-REACHING AGREEMENT ON
IMPORTANT POLITICAL QUESTIONS. THIS EXCLUDES THE ECONOMIC FIELD
WHERE CONSIDERABLE DIFFERENCES EXIST. THEY WILL BE DEALT WITH
AT THE ECONOMIC SUMMIT IN BONN." CHAPMAN

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